Friendship Scans

Akaki Tsuki No Mawaru Koro

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CHAPTER 6

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Author's Note

Parts like this are from the play within the manga. It uses very old Chinese/Japanese similar to Shakespearean English. However the problem here is that Shakespearean English (easy-to understand parts at least) are grammatically correct whereas old Chinese/Japanese put together words and pretty much completely omit anything that's not a noun or a verb. So the sentences come out very weird.

Little bit of background knowledge: in kendo, a sport involving the duel wield and Chu had with wooden canes, victory is usually decided (especially in tournaments) via a point system, which is similar to point-based martial arts involving hit and no-hit zones and penalties. A "point" here refers to a cut made by Chu that was legal. Under the circumstances of the play in the manga although there was no real sides being used, Chrous suffers humiliation as it is an implied fact that she would be dead had the duel been real.

THAT'S ...
RUI
SCRAPE
HUH?
PA!
DON'T!!

DON'T WHAT?
I HAVEN'T EVEN DONE ANYTHING YET
WHY
OF COURSE, IT'S BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T COME AROUND TO WAKE ME WHEN IT WAS TIME TO
EVEN
EVEN SO, DON'T JUST WANDER INTO A GIRL'S ROOM LIKE THAT
WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
KYA

WHAT'S WRONG? DID YOU HAVE THAT DREAM AGAIN ?
.....
LET ME GO!!!
EVEN THOUGH WE CAUGHT KAZAMA, I KEEP HAVING THAT DREAM...
I KNEW IT...
IT'S NOT OVER YET...
grab
HAH?
WHAT'S WRONG ?
ME DYING IN A DREAM IS THAT SCARY ?
IF THAT'S THE CASE
FALLS
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Thank you for reading!

LET ME HELP YOU FORGET ABOUT IT.
HUH?
WAIT...

PLEASE HURRY AND GET GO GET READY!!
THAT'S RIGHT, TODAY IS
THE FIRST DAY OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE "KAGAMIYAMA KOKYO NO NISHIKIE".
THAT'S ENOUGH !!
WHOOSH
KU.. KUREHA ...
RUINING EVERY-THING..
HUUU
HUUU
I AM SO VERY SORRY,
BUT DON'T TELL ME YOU FORGOT WHAT DAY IT IS, RIGHT? RUI-SAMA?

JEEZ RUI IS SO INCONSIDERATE OF OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS
HUUUU
THE DREAM MUST BE AN OMEN...
SOMETHING BAD IS DEFINITELY GOING TO HAPPEN TODAY...
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
THERE'S ALREADY SO MANY PEOPLE...
AND IT'S SO EARLY...
THERE'S SO MANY PEOPLE COMING TO SEE RUI'S PERFORMANCE...

WHO THE CULPRIT IS AND WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO DO...
ALTHOUGH I'M NOT COMPLETELY SURE...
BUT HOW CAN THEY MAKE
A DREAM INTO A REALITY ...?!
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HOW CAN I STOP ?!
FIRST, A CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE HERE
FOR THE FIRST DAY OF OUR PERFORMANCE
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
Whoosh

IT IS MY UTMOST HOPE THAT EVERY-ONE BEHAVES WELL.
WE'VE MANAGED TO MAKE IT TO THE PERFOR-MANCE
ALTHOUGH SOME THINGS HAVE HAP-PENED OVER THE PAST COUPLE DAYS,
ESPECIALLY
RUKI
RUI
THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE HERE TO WATCH THE PERFORMANCE OF TWO POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS
PLEASE FULLY DEMONSTRATE YOUR ABILITIES TO THEM
YES
YES

.....
OKAY
THERE AREN'T ANY STRANGE TRAPS ON THE STAGE
NEXT ARE THE PROPS..
IN ANY CASE. BEFORE THE PER FORMANCE STARTS
I HAVE TO CHECK EVERY SUSPICIOUS PLACE.
!
THAT S
ASHI KAWA RUKI ?

HM
OH... IT'S JUST RIU YOU SCARED ME THERE
WHY IS HE HERE ...?
IS THAT ... A KNIFE TO BE USED IN THE PEPPOR-MANCE ?
THAT'S RIGHT! THERE'S SOMETHING WE HAVE TO CONFIRM AT THE END OF THE CLIMAX
DRAW
AND THAT'S,
THE SCENE OF MURDER !!
!?

Grab
ALL OF YOUR APPEAR-ANCES HAVE
IMPECCABLE TIMING, RUI-NIISAN
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, RUKI..
RUI ...!!!
RELAX IT'S NOTHING, BUT A SIMPLE PRANK,
THIS BLADE IS FAKE.
SEE, IT DOESN'T CUT YOU
Slice
RUKI
IT'S ABOUT TIME TO STOP THOSE CHILDISH WAYS
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THE TRUE IMPORTANCE OF TODAY'S PERFORMANCE IS NOT SOMETHING
THAT YOU ARE UNAWARE OF
BY PUTTING BOTH YOU AND I TOGETHER IN THE FIGHT FOR SUCCESSION,
THE WEAKER ONE WILL BE WIPED FROM THE SLATE. THAT IS THE PLAN.
IF THERE'S ANY MARGIN FOR CHEATING, THEN BRING IT ON
OTHERWISE...
YOU WILL END THIS FARCE
WHILE YOU HAVE GAINED NOTHING OVER ME....

...
TURN
JEEZ
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO PROVOKE HIM LIKE THAT?!
IF RUKI REALLY DOES SOME-THING,
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?!
I CAN'T DO ANY-THING
HUH?
BY BEING ON STAGE
I WILL ALSO BE SURROUNDED WITH PROBLEMS

THE SHOCK AND SURPRISE ON THE STAGE
IS WHAT MAKES IT SO FUN AND INTERESTING
IN ANY CASE..
.. FUN AND INTERESTING ..
WELL TIME TO GO BACK AND PREPARE
I'M LEAVING
HMMM ...
I KEEP FEELING AS IF HE'S ALWAYS FOOLING ME SOMEHOW
DON'T TELL ME ...
HE IS RUI THOUGH, DOES HE HAVE HIS OWN CONSIDERATIONS...
... HEY, RUI, GET ME THE SMALL MIRROR THERE
AHH
OK COMING!

GI- GIVE
brush
HMM?
WHAT'S WRONG?
I FEEL ...I FEEL SOMEWHAT UNSATIS-FIED...
HMMM~~ JUST A BIT MORE...
WHY IS HE SO CHARM-ING ~?
Grab...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, RUI-SAMA?
SIGH IT'S JUST THAT...
HUH?!
KUREHA ...!?
IT FEELS... FEELS LIKE YOU'VE GONE UP A LEVEL ...?
ORDERS OF RUI-SAMA
PROBABLY REVENGE FOR WHAT HAPPENED IN THE MORNING...
IT SUITS YOU, SO THERE'S NO PROBLEM
EXCEPT YOU STILL CAN'T CATCH UP TO ME...
UNVEILED
HE HE HE HE
YOU GUYS LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN
WHO, WHO IS IT NOW?!
EXCUSE ME, RUI

SHI-ZURU...
HUH, HUH? SHIZURU-SAN?!
THOSE CLOTHES ARE—
HEHEHE
THEY WERE KAZAMA'S
CHIKAMATSU-SENSEI ASKED ME TO,
SINCE I REMEMBERED ALL OF THE SCRIPT
THERE'S NO PROBLEM WITH THE BODY?
HMM
NOTHING'S WRONG, AND WE CAN RETURN TO NORMAL SOON
THIS IS GOOD FOR PRACTICE
AH... THAT'S RIGHT
SHIZURU-SAN HASN'T BEEN ON STAGE FOR A WHILE DUE TO HIS HEALTH...
Yes.
Please go easy on me for the first day
Go easy on me as well
SPEAKING OF WHICH, RUI—
WHAT DID YOU TELL RUKI?

WHY ?
NOTHING I JUST SAW RUKI
HE SEEMED VERY NERVOUS, THAT'S WHY I...
I ALWAYS KNEW..
THAT YOU'VE NEVER LIKED EACH OTHER
I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER HE CAN CONTINUE TO PERFORM LIKE THAT
THAT'S HIS OWN PROBLEM
IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN HELP, SHIZURU
WELL, EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT..
THAT'S PRETTY HARSH
WELL, I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE NOW.
AHH...
PLEASE
CAREFUL OF THE STAIR
THANK YOU

WHAT DID... SHIZURU-SAN JUST SAY...?
QUITE
IF ONLY NOTHING WILL HAPPEN.
I'LL BE LEAVING AS WELL.
RUI
UHM
BE CARE-FUL.
HE HE
DON'T WORRY
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Thank you for reading!

WA
WA
AAAHHH
WA
WA
KAGAMIYAMA KOKYO NO NISHIKIE BEGINS
RUI...
RESTING ROOM
IT HAS BEGUN
ALL I CAN DO IS WAIT AND WATCH HERE...

THE FIRST PART IS THE "NEW LOTUS FIELDS"
THE STORY TELLS OF A PRINCESS WHO,
AS A RESULT OF THE DEATH OF HER FIANCE, DECIDED TO REACH ENLIGHTENMENT
THE ONE THAT WANTS THE WEALTH OF THE FAMILY AND OPPOSES THE DECISION OF THE PRINCESS, "IWADO"
WHY WOULDN'T THOU SHAVE THY HEAD WHEN FATE FROWNS UPON THY MARRIAGE?
THE ONE THE PRINCESS TRUSTS THE MOST, "ONOUE"
SHE PICKED UP A SECRET LETTER OF IWADO'S AND KNOWS HER TREACHERY.
WHAT A MOST FEARFUL LETTER ..
I SHALL PLAN FOR THE MEDDLING OF ONOUE
AND THUS PLAN FOR HER INTERFERENCE

APPLAUSE
ASHIKA-WA!!
WOO! ASHIKA-WA!
THE PLAN ELIMINATES ONOUE
WOW... LISTEN TO THAT AP-PLAUSE...
WHAT MAY HAPPEN TOMORROW IS BUT UNDETERMIN-ABLE
IWADO'S HATRED TOWARDS THE TRUSTED ONOUE CAUSED HER
TO MAKE HER FIGHT DESPITE ONOUE NOT KNOWING HOW.
THOU MAY FACE ME WITH ARMS
SHALT THOU BEARST ILL-WILL
AND THE SECOND PART, "THE BATTLE FIELD IN THE MIDST"
Tap Tap Tap
WAIT. WAIT
FINALLY, "OHATSU" ENTERS THE STAGE.

OHATSU IS THE SERVANT OF ONOUE
WITH HER IDENTITY, SHE IS NOT ALLOWED TO COME FORTH.
WAA WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT!
PLEASE WAIT!!
THIS SERVANT SHALL PLEAD IN THE PLACE OF HER MASTER... ONOUE.
WHO FEARS VIOLENCE TO FIGHT IN HER STEAD.
ALTHOUGH IN THE END, SHE TOOK A CUT FROM IWADO'S BAMBOO BLADE
AND ALSO TAKES A POINT FROM HER.
BUT OHATSU BEAUTIFULLY KNOCKS THE BLADE OUT OF IWADO'S HANDS
AHH EVEN THOUGH MY HEART MAY BE NOBLE MY PLACE IS LOW AND WORTHLESS...
UNLIKE THE EVIL I SEE, IWADO...!!!
I KEEP ON FEELING THAT OHATSU IS A REALLY GOOD CHARACTER FOR RUI!
I SUPPOSE IT'S A WEIRD FIT MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE THE OPPONENT WOULD BE RUI...

THAT'S RIGHT, RIGHT NOW AT AKATSUKI HOUSE, THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN PLAY OHATSU IS LIKELY TO BE ONLY RUKI
APPEARS
SHIZURU-SAN?!
WHY ARE YOU HERE...
THE PERFORMANCE IS STILL GOING ON...
THE PRINCESS ONLY STAYS UNTIL THE SECOND PART
SO HOW WAS IT?
DO YOU FEEL THE PERFORMANCE IS GOOD?
YES
YES, VERY!!
THE SECOND ACT PLAYED JUST NOW WAS VERY WELL DONE
LOOKS LIKE THE CHARM OF A LIVE PERFORMANCE TRULY IS INCOMPARABLE
WELL
RUI LOOKS TO BE THE ONLY ONE THAT'S PRETTY CALM
HEHEHA
INDEED
LOOKS CALM, RIGHT?

FOR HIM, EVEN A SIMPLE MOVEMENT CAN EASILY CAPTIVATE THE CROWD
THIS MEANS THAT HIS TALENT IS SUCH THAT HE HAS NEVER NEEDED TO REPEATEDLY PRACTICE
HIS CALMNESS TELLS ME THAT THIS IS NOTHING BUT A PRACTICE TO HIM.
I CAN BE NOTHING BUT RESPECTFUL TOWARDS HIS TALENT...
IN ORDER TO AVENGE HER MISTRESS'S DEATH, OHATSU CHALLENGES IWADO TO COMBAT.
BECAUSE OF THE TREACHERY OF IWADO, ONOUE ENDS UP COMMITTING SUICIDE
THE FINAL PART! THE FIELDS OF REVENGE
SHIZURU-SAN...?
THE HATRED OF ONOUE SHALL BE BROUGHT FORTH BY ME, AND THOU SHALT REGRET!!
THEN BRING IT ON.

WE'RE FINALLY AT THE LAST PART..
IF THIS PART ENDS—
HUH..?
SIGH
WHAT'S THE MATTER
SHIZURU-SAN
THE POSITIONS OF THE TWO SEEM VERY STRANGE..
THEY'RE NOT STANDING WHERE THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO
THE SLEEVES OF RUI'S GOWN ARE TORN...
STANDS
DON'T TELL ME—
RIU...

WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
PA!
WHAT'S THE MATTER
THE SCENE JUST NOW SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE CONCLUSION OF THE DECISIVE BATTLE
SOME-THING FEELS OFF
HA.
HA.
HA.
HA.
IT COULDN'T BE...
THAT WAS A REAL BLADE
!?
WHAT ARE THOSE TWO TRYING TO DO
Ta
Ta
RIN!?
STOP, THE STAGE IS THERE!?
PLEASE LET ME GO! I HAVE TO STOP IT BEFORE-

ONE TAKES THE WEIGHT OF HIS OWN BURDENS
WHY WOULD A SIMPLE SERVANT NEED TO REVENGE HERSELF?
RUI...!!
RIU, CALM DOWN.
THOU WAR AGAINST IWADO
EVEN WITH VICTORY THOU STILL CANNOT ...
THE DREAM WILL COME TRUE
BUT !!
BRUSH
IF THIS KEEPS UP...
GLINT

Dong

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Thank you for reading!
CLANG
thump
THUMP

IT CAN'T BE...
THIS CAN'T BE REAL ...
MY DREAM CAME TRUE !?
NO OO OO OO !!

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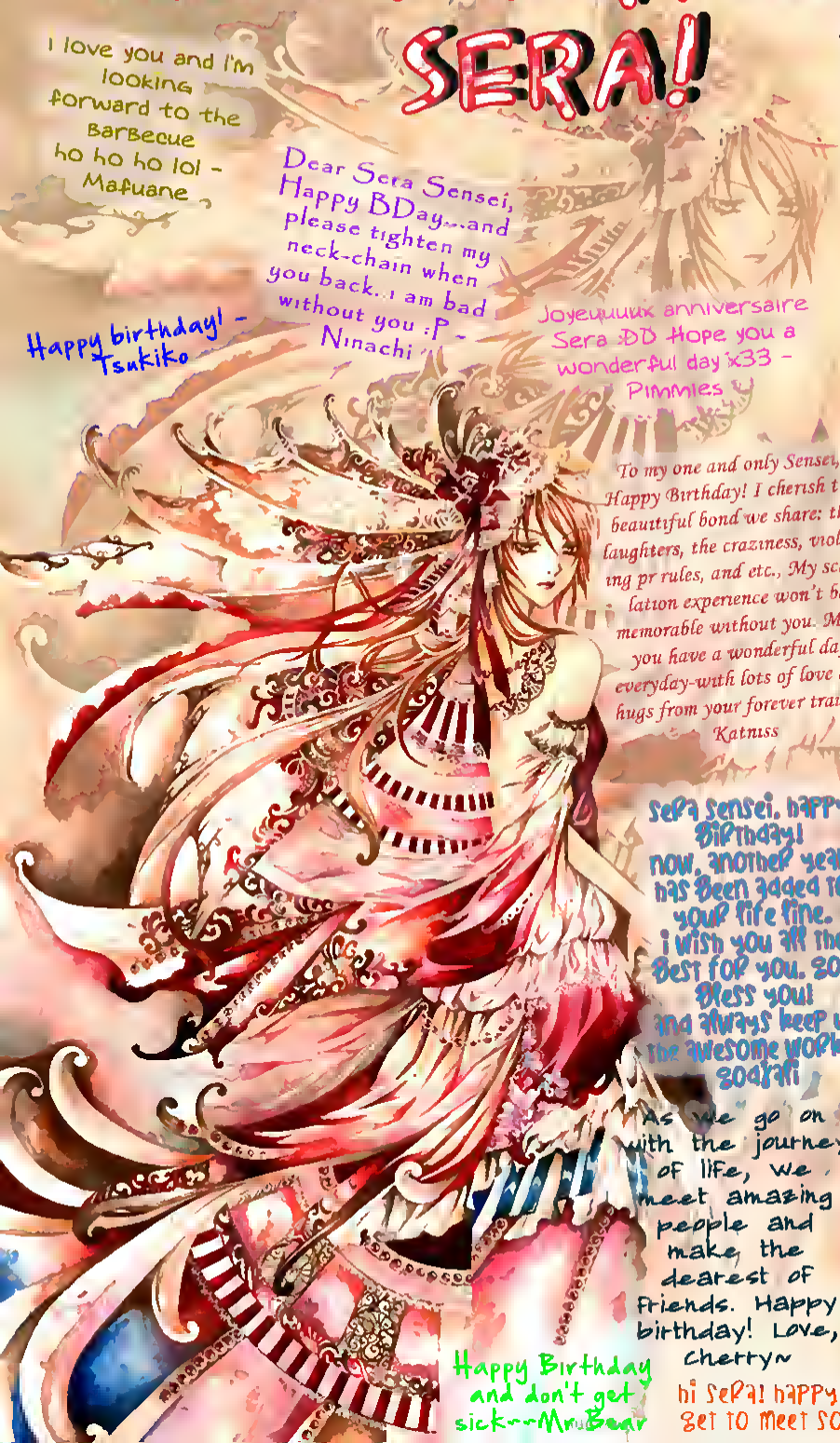
06-20-2013

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SERA!



I love you and I'm looking forward to the BarBecue ho ho ho lol - Mafuane

Dear Sera Sensei, Happy BDay...and please tighten my neck-chain when you back..I am bad without you :P - Ninachi

Happy birthday! - Tsukiko

Joyeuuuux anniversaire Sera :DD Hope you a wonderful day x33 - Pimmies

happy happy birthday sera dear... may you have more raws to *cough* cleans... cleans/pr to typeset... and most of all... pjs to bury... you are the one and only queen of multi-tabs... may all your dreams both in rl & FS (bury bury bury all of em :P) came true... hugs and kisses... love lots - Nomeamez

Sera~~ Happy birthday! Come back soon from RL T_T. You are missed...need you to come back to play and kill more pj :3 -Cowsarenice

To my one and only Sensei, Happy Birthday! I cherish the beautiful bond we share: the laughters, the craziness, violating pr rules, and etc., My scanlation experience won't be memorable without you. May you have a wonderful day everyday-with lots of love and hugs from your forever trainee, Katniss

happy Birthday sensei sera hime same!! i hope you will Be Blessed with lots of Bishies. *tears of joy* glomps glomps - snowpy

Sera sensei. happy Birthday! now, another year has been added to your life fine. i wish you all the best for you. God Bless you! and always keep up the awesome work! - Soaraii

Happy happy birthday, sera. You're one year older which means one year better. Wishing you tons of future and happiness for your birthday, with lots and lots of bishies <3 -panpan

As we go on with the journey of life, we meet amazing people and make the dearest of friends. Happy birthday! Love, Cherry~

Happy Birthday and don't get sick~~MruBear

hi Sera! happy Birthday! i hope we'll get to meet soon, Senpai... -engaile

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FS JULY 2013 Birthday Celebrants

Happy Birth Month!!

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CHAPTER 7

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Chapter 7
The Secrets of The Garden

Author's Note

Note Volume 2...

Continuing the previous volume, the back cover has also been drawn in the style of a novel. In a different point of view. Shizuru should be Prince Eric... But since their personalities are too different, I do not know if I would have drawn them like that. Ultimately, I did them all in cosplay. Every time I draw clothes the dresses always give them a pretty cool look. I thought that if I would've had a little more time, I could've coloured them. But it turns out that I didn't have enough time, so I simply made a draft. Even though I like frilly and extravagant dresses... they are really hard to draw...

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.....
HMM... I SAY, THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE GOING ON...?
YEAH... IS THIS PLAY SUPPOSED TO HAVE SUCH A BIG DELAY?
I DON'T ....
HEY!
WHY AREN'T THEY PERFORMING? IS SOMETHING WRONG?
HEY... LOOK, ISN'T THAT BLOOD ...?
...? STRANGE ...
WE SHOULDN'T BE USING FAKE BLOOD....

I DON'T WANT THIS ...
drop
RUI—!!
DEAR ME...
HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO CARE-LESS...
HUH!?

ALTHOUGH... REFUSING TO DEAL THE LETHAL BLOW AGAINST THE ENEMY...
YOU ARE SO NAIVE.
!?
SWISH

IS THAT... PART OF THE PERFORMANCE...?
THAT'S NOT PART OF THE SCRIPT.
RUI...!
...RUI...!
HE HE...
ARE YOU TREMBLING WITH FEAR?
ARE YOU STILL GOING TO CONTINUE EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE HURT...?
TSU-CHAN, YOU DISAPPOINT ME.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A WOMAN WITH MORE BACKBONE THAN THAT.
LOSING WILL FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
LOOKS LIKE I REALLY MISJUDGED YOU.

LET'S PASS ON THE EPITAPHS. I'LL HAVE YOU AS YOU ARE
IN PASSING ON WITH YOUR REGRETS !!!
SHOOT
I...
THINK THAT EVEN THE LIFE OF AN EVIL PERSON
IS VERY VALUABLE, THEREFORE I HESITATED
WHAT'S ... WHAT'S HAPPENING? HOW COME NONE OF THIS IS IN THE SCRIPT ...?
ALTHOUGH THEY DID MANAGE TO PULL IT BACK
EVEN SO, THE ONE TO COME TO THEIR SENSES IS YOU!!!

I'LL HAVE YOU SENT TO THE AFTERLIFE WITH ONOE!!!
SO STUBBORN, EVEN IN THE FACE OF DEATH ...!
snatch
SWISH
HOW... HOW IS IT POSSIBLE...
THAT I...
LOST TO...
TUMBLE

COLLAPSE
THIS... LITTLE GIRL...
.....
YOU'VE FINALLY PAID FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE...
UWAHHHHH...
ONOE-SAMA...
YOUR SERVANT HAS TAKEN REVENGE FOR YOU TODAY...
PLEASE PASS ON IN PEACE!!!

RUI...
UWOAH
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
SO ENGAGING THAT WAS FASCINATING
IS THAT TRUE?
HE'S NOT THAT KIND OF GUY
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
YEAH I CAN TAKE IT...
.....

RIU
I
?
THANK GOOD-NESS...
...HURRY, WE HAVE TO GET IT BAN-DAGED!
STOP CRYING
IT'S NOT EVEN THAT SERIOUS

!
RUKI, WHY DID YOU DO THIS...?
whisper...
USING AN ACTUAL KNIFE IN THE PERFORMANCE...
THAT... WAS NEVER MY INTENTION ...
...KEH.
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thank you for reading!

STOP LYING..
DIDN'T YOU GO TO THE PROPS ROOM BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE?!
!
YOU.
THAT WAS WHEN ...
EXCHANGED THE FAKE BLADE WITH A REAL ONE .. RIGHT?
OF COURSE NOT!
IT'S BECAUSE I COULDN'T FIND THE FAKE BLADE I WAS SUPPOSED TO USE IN THE BREAK ROOM,
THAT'S WHY I WENT TO THE PROPS ROOM FOR THE SPARE BLADE.
HUH?
YOU EVEN SAW THAT IT WAS FAKE BLADE?!
I COULDN'T HAVE SWAPPED THEM.
BECAUSE WHEN I LEFT THE PROPS ROOM, I RAN INTO AKIMSA-NISAN AND THE OTHERS FROM THE ROKUGYA HOUSE,
AND I STAYED WITH THEM EVER SINCE!!!
!?
YES.. THAT WOULD BE COR-RECT
RUKI IS NOT LYING
WE WERE WITH HIM

THEN HOW...?
ALSO, THE PROPS FOR THE PERFORMANCE WERE ALREADY MOVED BEHIND THE STAGE RIGHT BEFORE IT BEGAN.
SO I THINK THAT THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO TIME FOR RUKI TO SWAP ANYTHING.
RUI...
EVERY-THING RUKI SAID WAS THE TRUTH...
RUI...
ALTHOUGH RUKI'S PERSONALITY IS SPOILED, HE STILL POSSESSES THE HONOUR OF AN ACTOR...
HE WOULD NEVER DO SOMETHING TO TAINT HIS OWN PER-FORMANCE...
THIS YOU CAN BELIEVE.
.....

grumble...
I'M SO VERY SORRY,
THAT I INJURED YOU...
IF IT WASN'T FOR ME HELPING YOU THE WHOLE THING WOULD HAVE BEEN RUINED
HMMMM
THE FIRST PERFORMANCE OF KAGAMIYAMA KOKYU NO NISHIKE CONCLUDES
YOU'RE SERIOUS...
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU KNOW. SINCE YOU LOST YOUR COOL FROM SOMETHING AS SMALL AS THAT...
YOU'VE STILL GOT WAYS TO GO
RUKI HIMSELF,
WAS BEING USED

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...
HOWEVER,
YOU'RE PRETTY QUICK TO CATCH ONTO MY LEAD, SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE STILL PRETTY INTELLIGENT
THE PERFORMANCE WAS KIND OF NORMAL, BUT
!
AL-THOUGH RUI...
SAYS THAT RUKI IS ONLY BEING USED...
IF THAT'S THE CASE
WHAT IS IT, RIU?
YOU'RE STILL DOUBTING ME...?
HUH..?! I DIDN'T MEAN THAT...
AH~~AH! THIS IS SUCH A BIG CATAS-TROPHE FOR ME!!!
IF RUI-NISAN DIED,
WOULDN'T I HAVE JUST BECOME A MURDERER?

IN ANY CASE, I'M NOT KAZAMA...
SO HOW COULD I DIRTY MY OWN HANDS?
UH... UH-HUH..
THIS... THIS SOUNDS WEIRDLY CONVINCING ...
THEN...
WHO DO YOU THINK IS THE CULPRIT?
HMM...
WHO COULD IT BE...
HM...
IN THIS INCIDENT, THE CULPRIT TRIED TO KILL RUI-NIISAN,
THEN PASS ME OFF AS THE KILLER...
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT...
I THINK THE MOST SUSPICIOUS PERSON WOULD DEFINITELY BE SHIZURU-NIISAN!

ALTHOUGH SHIZURU-NIISAN LOOKS LIKE A GOOD GUY,
HE MIGHT BE A TERRIBLY SCARY PERSON...?
!
GENTLE AND CALM
I'M, IMPOS-SIBLE...
THAT'S KINDA HARD TO IMAGINE
IT'S LIKELY...
HA
I'M KIDDING!
RIU IS SOOOOO EASY TO TRICK. MAKES ME WANT TO TRICK HER ALL THE TIME —
STOP... STOP JOKING...
IN THE END WITHOUT KNOWING THE IDEN-TITY OF THE CULPRIT—
KAGIYAMA'S PUBLIC PERFOR-MANCES CAME TO AN END—
.....
ACCORD-ING TO MY GUESS ANYWAYS ☆
UH HUH...
A HEH!

ALTHOUGH RUKI'S PERFORMANCE WAS PRAISED BY MANY MAGAZINES ...
RUI'S PERFORMANCE RECEIVED THE MOST GLORY.
RUI WHO HAS GAINED AN ADVANTAGE IN THE RACE FOR THE TITLE OF THE ELEVENTH,
WAS QUICKLY DECIDED TO BE IN THE NEXT PUBLIC PERFORMANCE.
THEN, WHEN EVERYTHING WAS BEING PREPARED FOR THE NEXT PERFORMANCE,
EVERYTHING IN AKATSUKI HOUSE WAS TURNED UPSIDE DOWN AGAIN ——...
clap
clap
EVERYONE.
SHIZURU
HAS SOME GOOD NEWS TO TELL EVERYONE
BEFORE THE CASTING OF ROLES.
YES.

AFTER A PERIOD OF REST, AND MY BODY HAS STABILIZED
I WILL BE OFFICIALLY RETURNING AS AN ACTOR IN THE NEXT PERFORMANCE
PLEASE, BE KIND TO ME.
Clap
Clap
Clap
Peek
LOOKS LIKE THE GIRLS IN THE CLASS ARE REALLY ENERGETIC TODAY...
IS SHIZURU-SAMA FINALLY RETURNING...?
CONGRATULATIONS
SHIZURU-SAMA CONGRATULATIONS ON RETURNING!!

SINCE RUKI SAID THAT, I'VE WATCHED HIM SOMEWHAT, ALTHOUGH ...
IT'S REALLY DIFFICULT TO SUSPECT HIM.
... MIGHT BE A TERRIBLY SCARY PERSON?
I REALLY DON'T KNOW IF SHIZURU-SAMA IS THAT KIND OF PERSON ...
HMM ...?
I KEEP FEELING THAT SHIZURU-SAMA...
IS A BIT... EXHAUSTED?
I REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING SHIZURU-SAMA'S PERFORMANCE!!!
ME TOO!!!
AM I THINKING TOO MUCH ...?
NO ONE ELSE HAS ANY REACTION...
EXCEPT, IT FEELS LIKE...
HIS COMPLEXION LOOKS A BIT DRAINED ...

UNSTEADY
Bam
SHIZURU-SAMA?!
HUH... WHAT!?
AHH... EXCUSE ME, ARE YOU OK?
JUST NOW...
HUH...?
RIU...?

HMMM?
AH SORRY
SEEMS LIKE I TRIPPED ON SOMETHING.
AH..
SHIZURU-SAMA ARE YOU OK?
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THAT.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, I'LL BE LEAVING FIRST.
LIKE A BLOCK OF ICE.
SHIZURU-SAMA'S HAND IS SO COLD...

IS IT BE CAUSE
HE STILL HASN'T RECOV ERED YET
HMM...
THE NEXT PLAY IS THE NARUKAMI...
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE SCRIPT?
RUI...
"NARUKAMI" IS ONE PART OF THE EIGHTEEN SECTIONS OF A TRADI TIONAL STORY
THE STORY OF ONE WHO DOES NOT ALLOW THE FROST TO TOUCH THE GROUND, "NARUKAMI SHONIN", WHO SEALED THE DRAGON GOD
AND THE FROST PRINCESS TAEMA, WHO CAME TO THE HUMAN WORLD TO UNDO THE SEAL—
THIS IS JUST THE BASICS
HMM...
THE FROST PRINCESS ROLE IS TO BE PLAYED BY SHIZURU-SAMA, RIGHT?
SHIZURU-SAMA'S CROSS-DRESSING ROLE WOULD NO DOUBT ENCHANT THE AUDIENCE AGAIN, EXCEPT...
IS IT OK...
FOR HIM TO TAKE ON SUCH A BIG ROLE JUST AFTER HE COMES BACK...?

HUUUUUU UUHHH ?!?!?!
BE BECAUSE...
IF WE COMPARED YOU TO SHIZURU-SAMA, THEN IT'S OBVIOUS THAT SHIZURU-SAMA IS MORE SUITED TO THE ROLE OF THE PRINCESS!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE THAT SURPRISED...
.....
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, BUT THE PRINCESS' PART IS MINE...
SHIGURU HAS THE ROLE OF SHONIN
Approach
YOU'RE REALLY BRAVE...
SAYING THAT I DON'T FIT THE ROLE OF THE PRINCESS...?
I... I NEVER SAID THAT...
Shock
.....
OUCH...
OH NO, DOES YOUR WOUND STILL HURT?!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT? HOLD ON..
WAIT!!

HOLDS
SHONIN-SAMA,
HUH?
THE PAIN I FEEL ISN'T THERE
SLIDE
IT HURTS ...
HERE...

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Thank you for reading!
SOMEWHERE DEEP WITHIN MY BODY.

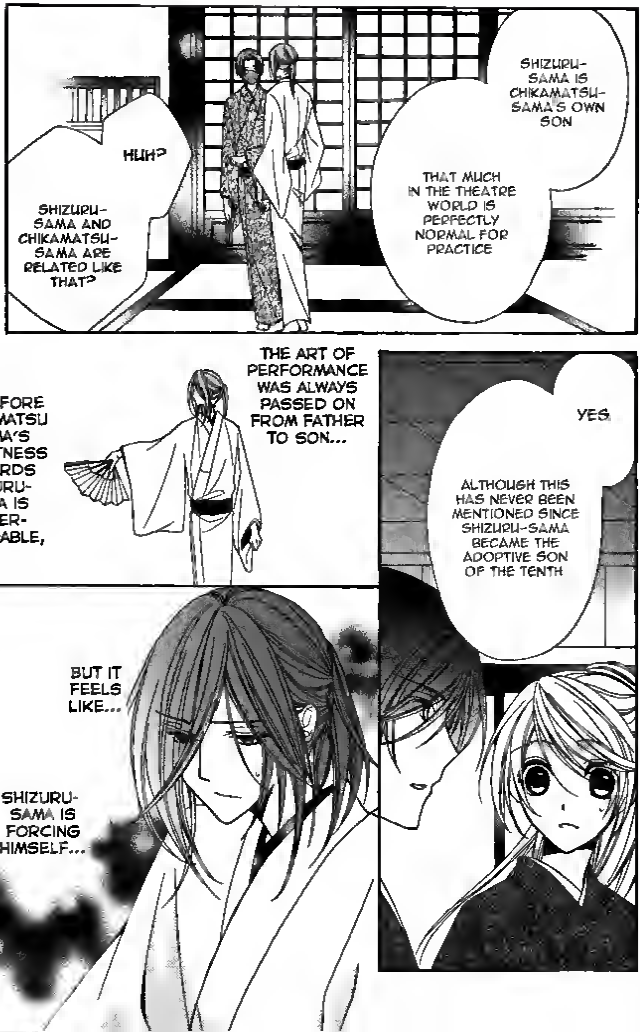
HUU..
P... PRINCESS ...
WE HAVEN'T EVEN CAUGHT THE CULPRIT YET, I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU CAN CONCENTRATE ENTIRELY ON THE NEXT PERFORMANCE!!!
WHAT WOULD AN ACTOR DO IF HE DIDN'T CONCENTRATE ON HIS PERFORMANCE?
JUST LIKE SO, MY ACTING OF THE FROST PRINCESS WOULD BE GODLIKE

I DIDN'T MEAN THAT.
I SIMPLY MEANT THAT... RUI SOMETIMES MAKES THE PERFORMANCE APPEAR MORE IMPORTANT THAT HIMSELF.
I WAS ALSO BORN INTO THE WORLD OF THEATRE, THAT'S WHY I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT THE STAGE IS AN ACTOR'S LIFE
BUT-
RUI WAS NEVER SOMEONE WHO GREW UP IN THE WORLD OF THEATRE —
SO WHY WOULD YOU SACRIFICE YOURSELF JUST FOR THE PERFORMANCE...?
OF COURSE, I KNOW THAT BECOMING THE ELEVENTH...
IS A VERY IMPORTANT THING, BUT — ...
CLOSE
I'VE NEVER WANTED THE SEAT OF THE ELEVENTH,
IT'S SIMPLY THAT —

WHAT ...?
NEVER MIND
THIS ISN'T SOMETHING YOU SHOULD GET INVOLVED IN.
HUH...?
DID I JUST....
GET PUSHED OUT —?

UNTIL TODAY,
ALTHOUGH HE'S TALKED TO ME LIKE THAT BEFORE
IT FEELS LIKE THERE WAS A GAP BETWEEN US JUST NOW...
THE AURA COMING FROM RUI KIND OF MADE ME FEEL SCARED.
NO!! DO IT AGAIN!!
dazed
IS THAT CHIKAMATSU-SAMA'S VOICE...

I'M SORRY, PLEASE GUIDE ME ONE MORE TIME
NO HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY IT?
THE ENTIRE FEELING OF YOUR BODY HAS BECOME SLOW
SHIZURU-SAMA...
RIN-SAMA PLEASE DON'T PEEK WHEN OTHER PEOPLE ARE PRACTICING
LOOKS REALLY UNCOMFORTABLE LIKE THAT... CAN YOU KEEP GOING LIKE THAT..?
YOU'RE GOING TO BE SCOLDED
KUREHA... BUT..


SHIZURU-SAMA IS CHIKAMATSU-SAMA'S OWN SON
THAT MUCH IN THE THEATRE WORLD IS PERFECTLY NORMAL FOR PRACTICE
HUH?
SHIZURU-SAMA AND CHIKAMATSU-SAMA ARE RELATED LIKE THAT?
THE ART OF PERFORMANCE WAS ALWAYS PASSED ON FROM FATHER TO SON...
THEREFORE CHIKAMATSU-SAMA'S STRICTNESS TOWARDS SHIZURU-SAMA IS UNDER-STANDABLE,
YES.
ALTHOUGH THIS HAS NEVER BEEN MENTIONED SINCE SHIZURU-SAMA BECAME THE ADOPTIVE SON OF THE TENTH
BUT IT FEELS LIKE...
SHIZURU-SAMA IS FORCING HIMSELF...

SWEEP
SWEEP
HAAA...
I'VE FINISHED THE EVENING SWEEP OF THE GROUNDS
OK
HMM ?
IT'S THE FLOWERS' VOICES.
IT'S COMING FROM THE GREEN-HOUSE...?
ARE YOU GUYS OK?
THERE'S SOME-THING...?
HM...? INSIDE ..?

WHAT CAN IT BE...
THIS GREEN-HOUSE IS SO DEEP
HACK
HACK
SHIZURU-SAMA!?
...HUU ...!?

ARE...
ARE YOU OK...?
R... RIU ...?
DON'T!
—YOU SCARED ME.
WHY ARE YOU HERE...?
I'LL BE FINE WITH A LITTLE REST.
BU-BUT...
I'LL GO CALL SOMEONE RIGHT AWAY
HE'S DEFINITELY NOT FEELING WELL...!!

I'VE NEVER BEEN DISCOV-ERED...
WHEN I USED TO REST HERE BEFORE..
TH.. THAT'S BE-CAUSE
SHI-ZURU.
WHERE ARE YOU, SHIZURU?
CHIKA-MATSU-SAMA..!?
Stumble
.....
I HAVE TO GO..
AH!
SHI-ZURU.. WHERE DID YOU RUN OFF TO..?
ALRIGHT, TIME TO START PRACTICING
TH.. THAT'S..
I THINK IT'S BETTER TO REST SOME MORE FIRST ..
LIKE THIS —— !?
YES
PLEASE BE KIND TO ME
!?

GRAB
N.. NO!
!
CAN'T YOU JUST
LET SHIZURU-SAMA REST FOR TODAY, WITH NO PRACTICE?
WHAT RE YOU SAYING ALL OF A SUDDEN ...
WE HAVE NO TIME.
ALL RIGHT... SHIZURU, LET'S GO.
IT'S JUST... SHIZURU-SAMA IS EXHAUSTED ...
IF YOU MAKE HIM PRACTICE ANYMORE, IT MIGHT INTERFERE WITH HIS PERFOR-MANCES

I... I'M FINE... !!
IT'S JUST BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE PRACTICED... MY BODY JUST CAN'T KEEP UP FOR NOW, THAT'S ALL!!
SHIZURU-SAMA..
!!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
I SUPPOSE SO...
IF IT INTERFERES WITH THE PERFORMANCE THEN THAT'S NO GOOD
SIGH
I UNDER-STAND.
WE SHALL STOP FOR TODAY
TOMORROW WE WILL CONTINUE PRACTICING
.....

I'M SORRY.. CAN YOU PLEASE HELP ME TO THE GREEN-HOUSE..?
.....
IF WE'RE THERE,
NO ONE CAN FIND US
SHIZURU-SAMA!
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE...
YOU'RE HANDS ARE STILL SO COLD...
THANK YOU, RIU
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME. YOU CAN LEAVE
I CAN'T DO THAT

I UNDERSTAND, SHIZURU-SAMA.
YOU DON'T WANT TO MAKE OTHERS WORRY ABOUT YOU
HMM?
BUT... I CAN'T JUST ABANDON YOU.
I WILL STAY WITH YOU UNTIL YOUR BODY CALMS DOWN.
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No...
You must not be so gentle towards me.
?
Like this,
You make me want to steal you away from Rui—

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CHAPTER 8

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Chapter 8
Intertwining Threads

HAH!?
...STEAL YOU FROM RUI'S SIDE.
UH... UHM, WHAT ARE YOU —

SHIZURU-SAMA
...HUUU!?
IF IT'S YOU...
YOU WON'T REJECT ME, RIGHT?
WHAT A DARK PAIR OF EYES.
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HUUU
SCARY
NO!
I FEEL ...
THE MAN BEFORE ME IS HE ...
REALLY SHIZURU-SAMA...?
UHM .. WELL..
WHAT IS IT —!?

WHY ...
I'VE WORKED SO HARD,
WHY DOES NO-BODY ...
!?
PLEASE ...
PLEASE GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF, SHIZURU-SAMA!
HUH ...
SORRY ...

CUT
PLACE
SHIZURU-SAMA
!?
WHY WOULD HE SAY THAT KIND
...
WAS DEFINITELY NOT ALL RIGHT
THE SHIZURU-SAMA FROM YESTERDAY,

HA HA
RIU, LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE HERE
EXCUSE ME,
I WAS SIMPLY ABOUT TO TAKE THE COSTUMES OUT TO DRY.
BUT I'M A LITTLE SHORT-HANDED HERE. WILL YOU PLEASE HELP ME FOR A BIT?
CHIKA-MATSU-SAMA!
Y.. YES..
WH... WHAT DO I DO...
DO I TELL CHIKAMATSU-SAMA WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY ...?
UH, UHM
THE THINGS I SAID YESTERDAY, PLEASE FORGIVE THEM
AH, SO YOU KNOW YOUR-SELF
THEN I MAY RELAX
Darken...
PL.. PLEASE EXCUSE ME

HA HA
IT'S OK. I AM NOT ANGRY.
SHIZURU TRULY IS QUITE TIRED.
THE PRACTICE WILL ONLY GET TOUGHER.
SO IT'S GOOD FOR HIM TO CATCH HIS BREATH WHILE HE CAN.
...INCREASING PRACTICE...?
OUT OF COURSE.
AFTER ALL, SHIZURU HAS HAD QUITE A LONG REST.
WE..WELL THAT'S TRUE...
BUT..
...WHAT IS IT?
UHM..
HOW DO I PUT IT?
I CAN'T REALLY EXPRESS IT WELL.
INSTEAD OF SAYING SHIZURU-SAMA IS TIRED,
IT WOULD BE MORE ACCURATE TO SAY THAT HIS MIND IS NOT ON BALANCE
HIS MIND IS UNBAL-ANCED..?
IT'S TRUE THAT HE HASN'T PERFORMED AS A MAIN FOR A WHILE.
IT'S EVEN POSSIBLE THAT THE PRESSURE ALONE IS TOO HEAVY

RIU...
BUT... EVEN IF YOU ARE RIGHT...
IF HE WANTS TO BECOME THE ELEVENTH HEAD OF THE HOUSE, HE WILL HAVE TO OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM HIMSELF...
TH.. THAT'S NOT ALL.. IN FACT...
RIU.
I AM VERY THANKFUL FOR HOW CONCERNED YOU ARE OF SHIZUKU
BUT THIS IS THE PROBLEM OF THE AKATSUKI HOUSE,
YOU DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO CUT IN.
THIS MATTER WILL END HERE...
UNDER-STAND?
HOW ...

OH NO.. WE'RE STILL MISSING A PIECE
RII-SAN, CAN YOU PLEASE GO INSIDE AND LOOK FOR US?
AH!
OK
THERE'S SO MUCH STUFF, TRYING TO FIND SOMETHING IS REALLY HARD
OPEN
WHAT'S IN THIS BOX?
WELL..
HMM?
RUI...?
RII-SAMA, DID YOU FIND IT?
KUFEHA...
NO, THAT'S NOT HIM, THE NAME'S DIFFERENT
IT LOOKS LIKE A REALLY OLD MAGAZINE

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN

.....

THERE, YOU SEE...
DOESN'T HE LOOK LIKE RUI
THOUGHT IT WAS RUI FOR A SECOND
IS THAT RIGHT? EXCEPT, THIS PHOTO WAS ALSO TAKEN WHEN HE WAS PLAYING IWAFUJI
NO WONDER THE ALOOF SOFT-EYES
HUH? THIS PERSON IS THE 10TH!?
YES
AFTER HE SUCCEEDED AS THE HEAD OF HOUSE HE SEEMS TO HAVE CHANGED HIS STAGE NAME
THI... THIS PERSON
ISN'T HE ASHIKAWA ENJUUROU, THE 10TH?
THE SAME HAIR PLUS THE SAME CLOTHES..
EXCEPT, I FEEL LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE...
AHH IF IT'S LIKE THAT
IT MAKES SENSE.
THIS... IS ...
A LETTER FOR THE 10TH...?
HMMM?
THUMP
fall
fall

HUH?
THE LETTER MENTIONS RUI'S NAME ...?
THESE ARE TREASURES FROM THE 10TH CENTURY!
THE CLOTHES ARE HERE!!!
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?
SO... SO SORRY.

MMMM
SO TIRED
HMM?
AH
NOT GOOD, IN THE PANIC JUST NOW
I ACCI-DENTALLY BROUGHT THE LETTER WITH ME
WHATCHA DOIN' STANDING AROUND?

FLOP
HMM?
YOU'RE NOT RESISTING TODAY?
SIGH
DON'T YOU EVER GET BORED OF DOING THIS?
I'M SO ENVIOUS OF HOW HAPPY YOU ARE
R...
RUI!
UNLIKE YOU I'M ACTUALLY BUSY
WORK'S TIRING...
Someone come over ...
THIS IS... THE VOICES OF THE FLOWERS IN THE GARDEN
!?
WHAT ARE THEY TRYING TO TELL ME...?
Out ... Outside ...
It's.. outside ...
HUH?
ENOUGH!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING ME HUG FOR!?

I'VE STILL GOT WORK TO DO.
I'M GOING FIRST!!
.....
WHAT HAPPENED? THE VOICES ARE GETTING MORE URGENT
IT'S COMING FROM THIS PART OF THE GARDEN ...
Over here.
Here.
?
STILL NOT THERE YET?
Here.
AH!

SOMEONE ELSE THAT'S HIDING...
THAT PERSON IS
SHIZURU-SAMA!?
WHAT DO I DO, DO I GO UP AND CONSOLE HIM...
EXCEPT...
SHIZURU-SAMA!
HIS FACE LOOKS MORE PALE THAN YESTERDAY.
DON'T TELL ME...
HE'S HYPERVEN-TILATING...
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO PONDER ...

I GIVE UP NO MATTER WHERE I HIDE, YOU FIND ME
.....
HAVE YOU CALMED DOWN?
Cough
DON'T TALK FOR THE MOMENT ..
WHAT'S THE MATTER ..?
Cough
NOTHING .. JUST FEELING A BIT NOSTALGIC ..
WHEN I HAD PROBLEMS LIKE THIS BEFORE,
MY MOTHER WOULD HELP ME BREATHE BY PAT-TING MY BACK AS WELL
SPEAKING OF WHICH
WHERE IS SHIZURU-SAMA'S MOTHER?
HM..?
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU DON'T KNOW, DO YOU RIU?

MY MOTHER PASSED AWAY A LONG TIME AGO
I'M .. I'M SO SORRY, I..
THOUGH I SAY THAT..
SHE WASN'T MY REAL MOTHER
HUH ..?
WHAT, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN..
SORRY, ABOUT HOW CONFUSING THIS IS
I I AM ..
THE SON OF CHIKAMATSU-SENSEI AND THE LADY OF A VERY HIGH-CLASS FAMILY
HOWEVER, MY PARENTS' PERSONALITIES WERE VERY DIFFERENT, AND THEY BROKE APART SOON AFTER MY BIRTH
THEREFORE I WAS BROUGHT UP BY CHIKAMATSU-SENSEI'S LITTLE SISTER, MICHIYO-SAN, IN THE PLACE OF MOTHER
SHE WAS LIKE ME, A SICKLY PERSON, BUT VERY GENTLE

I THINK YOU KNOW, THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE ANY CHILDREN.
9th
Chikamatsu
Michiyo 10th
Shizuru
MICHIYO-SAN AT THAT TIME HAD ALREADY MARRIED THE 10TH.
EH
DRAW DRAW
SO I BECAME THE ADOPTIVE CHILD OF MICHIYO-SAN AND THE 10TH.
"I AM SO HAPPY, THAT I CAN BECOME SHIZURU'S MOTHER."
SHE TOLD ME THAT GENTLY
THE SAME WAS FOR ME.
BEING ABLE TO CALL HER MOTHER MADE ME VERY HAPPY
OK, THEN WE'LL STOP HERE FOR TODAY
AH.. THAT'S ENOUGH..
YOU'RE SO LIGHT BROTHER
CHIKAMATSU-SENSEI'S SISTER, WAS THE ONE PERSON WHO ALLOWED ME TO FEEL THE WARMTH OF HAVING A MOTHER

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Thank you for reading!
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT BEING WITH YOU CALMS ME
I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY RUI IS WILLING TO STAY WITH YOU
THAT'S WHY,
WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY WAS THE TRUTH
HUH?
IF I ALSO HAD SOMEONE LIKE YOU BESIDE ME
BECAUSE YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE
THAT CARES ABOUT ME.

SHIZURU-SAMA,
DON'T YOU WANT TO TALK TO CHIKAMATSU-SAMA?
ABOUT THAT...
I'M NOWHERE NEAR AS GOOD AS SHIZURU-SAMA THINKS I AM
BEFORE THINGS GET TO THAT STAGE—
IF YOU KEEP ON GOING WITH THESE LESSONS, YOU'LL EVENTUALLY DESTROY YOUR OWN BODY...
.....
SHIZURU-SAMA?
SHIZURU ...
NO.
THIS IS THE ONE THING

SHIZURU.
I...
I CANNOT BETRAY THAT PERSON'S WISHES
Tremble
IT'S ALL...
SHIZURU, YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE
WHO CANNOT DISAP-POINT ME...
IT'S ALL MY FAULT ...
THERE-FORE
SHIZURU-SAMA
I'M SCARED ...
HELP ME... SOMEONE ...HELP ME...
Grab
!!

SHIZURU-SAMA
JUST WHAT IS SHIZURU-SAMA SO AFRAID OF...?
IT'S OK, PLEASE CALM DOWN.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SCARED
rustle
RUI!?
WHY IS HE HERE?
AH..

WHAT TO DO, I CAN'T MOVE RIGHT NOW
AND I CAN'T JUST LEAVE SHIZURU-SAMA.
POUR
SILEN—CE
THIS... THIS FEELS,
SO RIGID ...
AFTER THAT,
I HAD TO ESCORT THE CALM SHIZURU-SAMA
TO HIS ROOM

THIS DEPRESSING ATMOSPHERE IS...!?
UH.. UHM
WITH SHIZURU-SAMA, I WAS JUST..
HM?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
AH...!?
YOU MAY LEAVE NOW FOR TODAY.
I WISH TO BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON REMEMBERING MY SCRIPT
HE SMILED AFTER ALL...
YOU MAY LEAVE THE TEA AS IT IS
AH... THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S ALMOST TIME TO PERFORM AGAIN...
THEN... I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.
AHH GOOD NIGHT
WELL
HUH ...?
I THOUGHT HE WAS DEFINITELY GOING TO SAY SOMETHING TO ME...
IT'S GOOD HE'S NOT REALLY CARING ABOUT IT....
MORNING, RUI

TIME TO .. GET UP..
SILENCE
HE'S NOT THERE!?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, RUI-SAMA?
AHH, KUREHA, HAVE YOU SEEN RUI?
RUI-SAMA HUH
TODAY HE WENT TO MORNING PRACTICE
HUH?
JEEZ, AT LEAST TELL ME IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET UP EARLY!
HMPH!
I HAVEN'T FINISHED TALKING TO YOU YET!
NOT AT ALL!
RUI!
WHAT'S GOING ON!?

I KEEP FEELING THAT SOMETHING'S OFF...
UHM... RUI-SAMA
WHAT'S THE MATTER BETWEEN YOU AND RUI-SAMA?
HE... HE'S MORE GENTLE THAN NORMAL ...?
BUT...
IT'S TIME SO I'LL BE GOING FIRST
AFTER-NOON PRACTICE IS ALMOST ABOUT TO BEGIN
WH... WHAT'S UP..
YOU'D NEVER BE THIS NICE NOR-MALLY
!?
I SIMPLY DION'T WANT TO MAKE YOU WAKE UP WITH ME
WOW. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO ANGRY

I FEEL JUST FINE THIS WAY.
IS... ISN'T THAT PERFECT THEN?
WHY? LOOKS LIKE I'VE BEEN THINKING TOO MUCH?
HE'S JUST BEING MORE CONSIDERATE THAN NORMAL, EXCEPT....
WHY... ARE YOU ASKING THAT!?
WELL...
RUI-SAMA'S ACTIONS THESE PAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN ESPECIALLY GENTLEMAN-LIKE.
WELL, IT'S A GOOD THING BUT IT FEELS SLIGHTLY OFF...
WHY DOES IT BOTHER ME SO MUCH?
OF COURSE HIM NOT RANDOMLY TOUCHING ME IS A REALLY GOOD THING
RUI...?
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Thank you for reading!

SHE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A STUDENT OF THE PERFORMANCE CLASSES...
WHO'S THAT GIRL!?
SURPRISE
CHUCKLE.
HA HA HA HA
YOU FEELIN' IT?
SHE'S PROBABLY MEANT TO BE PAIRED WITH THE 11TH HEAD OF THE HOUSE, DON'T YOU THINK?
HER NAME'S KONDOU AI,
RU... RUKI,
CAN YOU PLEASE NOT POP OUT RANDOMLY !?
THAT GIRL'S CUTE, ISN'T SHE?
SHE'S THE LADY OF THE PRESTIGIOUS TAKAZAKIYA HOUSE
SHE IS HERE WITH THE TAKAZAKIYA GUYS
THINK ... WHAT?
AHHH, YOU FEELING HURT?

IT'S OK,
IT WASN'T THAT BAD
BUT IT'S WORRYING
IF I CAN RECEIVE YOUR SYMPATHIES,
THEN THIS INJURY WOULD BE WORTH IT
SMILE
IRRITATED
JEEZ, THAT GUY,
SAYING THOSE SUGAR COATED WORDS TO ANYONE HE MEETS...
RUI-NIISAN IS NOT BAD
USING THIS WITH EVERY GIRL HE SEES
WHAT'S IS GOOD ABOUT THAT FEEBLE AND PLASTIC SMILE?
EXCEPT
EVERY GIRL FALLS FOR IT THOUGH
!
THE SAME NO MATTER WHO IT IS,
THAT SHALLOW SMILE...?
AH!

I UNDERSTAND NOW...
THE REASON I'VE BEEN FEELING UNEASY RECENTLY...
EVER SINCE THAT DAY,
RUI HAS ONLY BEEN SHOWING ME THAT TYPE OF SMILE.
ALTHOUGH THAT GUY ALWAYS SAYS CHILDLIKE THINGS...
IN CONTRAST ...
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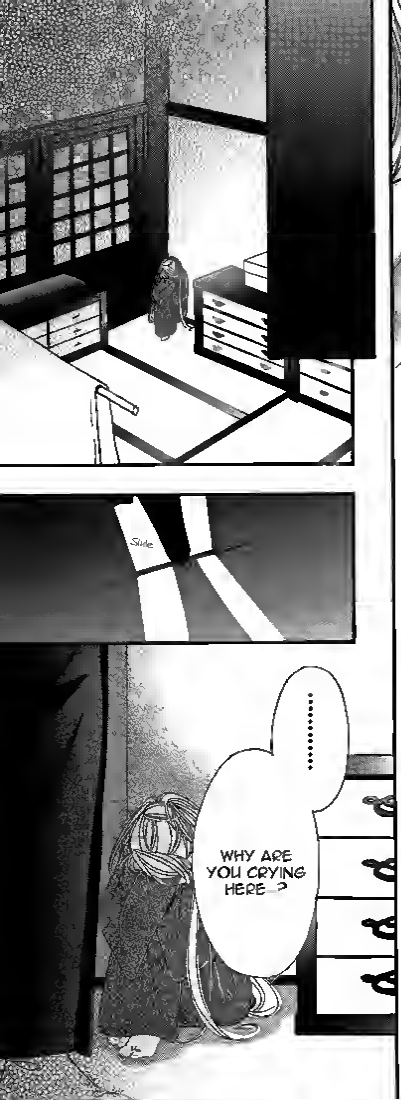
Thank you for reading!
HE'S NEVER ACTUALLY HID ANYTHING FROM ME BEFORE
THE INJURY ISN'T THERE YOU KNOW
IT'S HERE.

I'M SUCH AN IDIOT...
HEY THERE.
IS IT FINE TO NOT CARE ABOUT THIS?
DO I REALLY THINK I'M A SPECIAL PERSON TO HIM ...?
RUTS
HEY!
WAIT A MOMENT ...
EXCUSE ME.
IF RUI WANTS TO DO WHAT HE DID TO ME
TO OTHER GIRLS, THAT'S HIS RIGHT, I DON'T CARE!...
EXCEPT ...
FUU... ...


WHY
AM I
Slide
WHY ARE YOU CRYING HERE...?

.....
PULL
I ASKED YOU WHY YOU'RE CRYING, YOU KNOW.
.....
DON'T TOUCH ME...
STOP CARING ABOUT ME ANYMORE.

IS ME BEING WITH OTHER GIRLS SO FRUSTRATING THAT YOU NEED TO CRY?
chuckle
H...
HECK NO...
ARE YOU JEALOUS OF THAT GIRL?
WH
T/N: THE WAY KIU PUT THE IDEA OF KIU BEING JEALOUS IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT'S KIND OF PLAYFUL BUT ALSO QUITE SERIOUS. THERE'S NO REAL EQUIVALENT IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TO WHAT WAS USING IN THE RAW
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Thank you for reading!
!!!
YEAH.

I'M JEALOUS OF HER, WHAT ABOUT IT ...!?
IT'S NO LONGER ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS ANYMORE
WHO TOLD YOU TO BE SO GENTLE TOWARDS SHIZURU THEN.
HUH?

THICK AS YOU ARE,
YOU SHOULD BE DEVELOPING FEELINGS BY NOW, RIGHT?
WE... WE NEVER HUGGED OR ANYTHING ...
WHO CARES ABOUT YOUR EXCUSES!
!!
WH.. WHAT?
THIS IS MY PUNISHMENT TOWARDS YOU FOR HUGGING OTHER GUYS,
EVEN THOUGH YOU ALREADY LIKE ME
RIU,
WHAT DO I DO...

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Thank you for reading!
THAT HE'D SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO ME!
JUST WATCH ME AND YOU'LL BE FINE.
EVEN I CAN'T BELIEVE MYSELF.
DON'T LET ANY OTHER MAN TOUCH YOU.
BECAUSE THAT WAY, I'LL ALSO BE JUST YOURS.

8TH CHAPTER◆ END

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